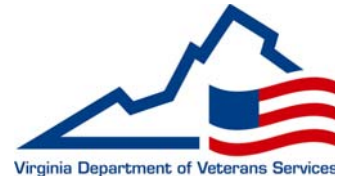


The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



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News Release

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Summit on working with veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan slated for November 6 and 7

RICHMOND— Advances in medical technology are saving more lives on the battlefield than ever before. But, many of our warriors are coming home with invisible wounds: combat stress and traumatic brain injuries. Over the next 20 years, approximately 50,000 Virginia veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq may experience the effects of these invisible injuries. And, when you factor in the impact on spouses and children, Virginia's share of this serious mental health concern could reach 200,000 or higher.

The Virginia Wounded Warrior Summit, *Painting a Moving Train*, is a follow-up to last year's Virginia is for Heroes conference where participants identified a need for increased training for care providers working with veterans and their families. The summit, which will be held at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center on November 6 and 7, targets behavioral health care and rehabilitation professionals, brain injury service providers, and other health care professionals.

Presenters will deliver training on combat stress injuries, working effectively in the military culture, diagnoses, and injury assessment. This training is designed for professionals who want to learn how to apply their existing clinical skills to their work with veterans, including those of Afghanistan and Iraq, and their families. CAPT Catherine Wilson (USN Ret), Executive Director of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, will discuss the new program and funding that may be available to communities in early 2009. Veterans and family members who have experienced the effects of combat stress and traumatic brain injury will be present to share their experiences.

The summit is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services in partnership with the Departments of Rehabilitative Services and Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. Participants may attend the summit on site at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in

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Fishersville, Virginia, or may participate via video conferencing at remote sites in Bristol, Martinsville, Norfolk, Williamsburg, Fredericksburg, Chantilly, and Richmond.

For more information, visit www.virginiaforveterans.com.

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